subcontinent, who peacefully and democratically push for self-determination for that part of the Indian subcontinent, their opinion for self-determination, their right for an independent Khalistan should not be suppressed.''

The comment was followed by loud cries of Khalistan zindabad.

Marris said it would not be right for parties in Britain to decide whether there should be self-determination in that part of the subcontinent. ''But it would be right for people to democratically and peacefully express their opinions.''

A senior shadow minister of the Conservative Party declared at the meeting of Khalistanis Sunday that the Conservatives will give Sikhs the option to register as Sikhs and not Indians when the party comes to power.

The announcement follows backing to the Khalistanis' demand by two senior shadow ministers of the Conservative Party earlier. The developments at the meeting Sunday mark rapid strides the Khalistani group has made in Britain in recent weeks. There has been little evidence of support for the Khalistanis among Sikhs, but strong Conservative Party backing to this group pursuing what they call the ''Sikh agenda'' has given them new prominence.

The Sikh Secretariat, which organised the meeting in Wolverhampton, had said 10,000 would attend. Only a few hundred came, most of them brought in coachloads from London and Southampton.

Caroline Spelman, shadow cabinet minister for international development and women's affairs, told the meeting that the Sikhs are a distinctive group, ''and yet we have very little idea how many Sikhs there are''.

Spelman said: ''At best that is discourteous, at worst it deprives you of proper monitoring of what your needs are.''

She said it was ''extraordinary'' that an opportunity to find out had been missed in the 2001 census.

She said the Labour government should monitor Sikhs separately and ''if they fail, then that will be a task for a Conservative administration to deliver on''.

The move is politically loaded. It would give Sikhs the option to declare themselves Sikhs and not Indians. It would mean that the estimated 1.2 million Indian population in Britain could fall to about half of that on the records.

Marris supported the demand for separate listing of Sikhs in Britain. He said there would be many opportunities to do so before the 2011 census.

Amrik Singh Gill, who heads the group that called the meeting, said Khalistan ''is the only way out'' for Sikhs and that ''we will get our own rule''. Posters of separatist leader Bhindranwale lined the walls of the hall where the meeting was held.

RECOGNIZING THE DEVASTATING IMPACT OF FRAGILE X

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2002

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, A few years ago, a friend from the South Shore of Boston told me about his son who for years had struggled to overcome the deficits associated with a disease called ''Fragile X.'' Like most Americans, I had never heard of this disorder.

I soon learned that Fragile X is the most common inherited cause of mental retardation. About one in 260 women is a carrier of the disease, and it affects one in 2,000 boys and one in 4,000 girls. Despite this high incidence rate, Fragile X is relatively unknown even within the medical profession. It is easily identified by a simple blood test, yet families often struggle for months, even years, searching for explanations for alarming developmental delays and behavioral problems associated with Fragile X. There are some common physical signs, such as large ears, long faces and flat feet, but half of all Fragile X children do not exhibit these characteristics. Other symptoms are less tangible, including hyperactivity, attention deficits, severe anxiety and violent seizures, making diagnosis difficult. As a result, it is estimated that over 80 percent of children with Fragile X are currently undiagnosed or misdiagnosed.

It is fitting that we gather today to consider a resolution recognizing National Fragile X Research Day, and the urgency of the need for increased funding for Fragile X research. Two years ago this week, Congress enacted another bill I co-authored with Congressman WATKINS, the Fragile X Research Breakthrough Act, as part of the Children's Health Act of 2000. This law directed an arm of the NIH to expand and coordinate research on Fragile X, and authorized the establishment of at least three Fragile X research centers.

I am pleased to report significant progress toward implementing these provisions. Early this year, the Institute began accepting applications for the Fragile X research centers, which may be ready to open their doors by this spring.

Thanks to this federal commitment, many prominent scientists have undertaken Fragile X research projects—rapidly accelerating progress and leading to new breakthroughs about its cause. In a series of landmark discoveries, researchers have identified the set of genes which are normally regulated by the Fragile X gene. Scientists are also now pursuing promising drug therapies for Fragile X as new evidence has shown that this type of defect can be blocked by relatively simple medications.

These new discoveries may not only lead to treatments for Fragile X, but also have uncovered striking connections between Fragile X and other neurological and psychiatric disorders—with implications for autism, pervasive development disorder, Rett Syndrome, Alzheimer's, schizophrenia, obsessive-compulsive disorder, Tourette's Syndrome, and numerous other disorders.

All this holds great promise for the development of safe and effective treatments, but there's a great deal more to do.

Among the thousands of Fragile X families across the country are your constituents and mine. And their experiences are likely similar to Patricia Crouse of Chatham, Massachusetts who wrote to me about her grandson: ''After searching for several months and spending a small fortune in doctor bills, my son and daughter-in-law finally found that the cause of their son's development delay is Fragile X. This is apparently just the beginning of a lifetime of special needs he will have unless the researchers can discover a cure or treatment.''

Or Blaine and Suzanne Smoller of Brewster, Massachusetts whose son Devin was diagnosed with Fragile X as a toddler. Devin is a bright and happy 12 year old—he is also easily distracted, prone to mood swings and hyperactivity, and has difficulty comprehending conceptual issues. Ensuring Devin receives the education and life skills needed to reach his full potential is a full time job—but because of the lack of understanding of Fragile X, the Smollers have also spent much of the last decade educating themselves, teachers, other parents, and friends about Devin's disorder.

Awareness and early diagnosis is critical to effective therapy and treatment, and can provide emotional relief to families struggling through this maze of medical tests. Only with sound information can parents prepare for the special care and education services most Fragile X children will need—which averages more than $2 million over a lifetime. Accurate diagnosis helps not only the child and parents, but also siblings and extended family members who may have Fragile X, or who risk passing on the mutation.

Countless parents agonize about a child who learns slowly, suffering from intense anxiety and temper tantrums. Do they go from doctor to doctor, without explanation? Do they have additional children with Fragile X before learning a mother is a carrier? Is a child deprived of treatment because she received inaccurate diagnoses? Do parents conclude they simply have a ''bad kid''?

For years, Fragile X families and the FRAXA Research Foundation have worked hard to raise public awareness about the disease, and to increase funding for research. Until a cure is discovered, our goal is to provide families dealing with Fragile X with the most significant tool now available: knowledge. With a little help from Congress, these families will at least have a better shot at accurate diagnosis and access to treatment, as we also accelerate research toward overcoming this debilitating disease. I therefore urge my colleagues to join with us in supporting this resolution—which recognizes the devastating impact of Fragile X, calls from an increase in federal research, urges medical schools and other health educators to promote this research, and commends the goals of National Fragile X Research Day.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE BALLREICH'S COMPANY OF TIFFIN, OHIO AND THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE POTATO CHIP

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 2, 2002

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize an indelible institution in Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. In this, the 150th anniversary year of the potato chip, the Ballreich Potato Chip and Snack Company has been producing some of the best snack foods known to northwestern Ohioans.

The Ballreich Potato Chip and Snack Food Company was started in the 1920s by Fred Ballreich. Fred began his entrepreneurial journey into the snack food business while he was just a teenager while working in a bakery that was owned by his sister. With the end of World War I, Fred, and his wife Ethel, decided to venture into the arena of small business